



News Release

For Immediate Release

Thursday, June 10, 2004

O'RORKE BRIDGE DECKS SCHEDULED FOR PAVING

Construction continues on schedule as dates are set for the paving of the two O'Rorke bridge decks that will soon operate permanently over the Genesee River, replacing the older Stutson Street Bridge.

Following the issuance of permits from the United States Coast Guard, both the east and west deck spans of the new bridge will be lowered over the river to allow construction crews to pour and cure the paving needed for the spans road surface. The decks will be lowered at 7:00 a.m. June 16 to begin the paving process and will be lifted again on July 2. The time frame is necessary to ensure the quality of the pavement which will benefit the durability and longevity of the deck surface.

"This is an exciting milestone in the construction process," said Terry Rice, Director of the Monroe County Transportation Department. "It means we are that much closer to completion and will soon celebrate an official opening of the bridge."

While no specific date for an opening has been set, the bridge's completion is just a few months away.

Boating traffic along the Genesee River will be minimally impacted by the lowered spans since they are almost 40' above the water's surface, a significantly higher clearance than the 24' of the older Stutson Street Bridge. Local sailing vessels docked south of the bridge and commercial boats requiring the bridge spans to be raised for access south of the bridge have been notified of the temporary closure.

"All vessels attempting to travel under the closed deck spans should check their clearance requirements carefully, said Rice. "Present high water conditions place the clearance at 39'3" at bridge center and 34' at the fender lines. The river width is in excess of 130 feet. However, prudent boaters should adjust those numbers by a foot or more to ensure safe passage."

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For further information, call:

Monroe County Department of Communications at 428-2380

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